

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 14, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 18, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1559

Introduced by Senator Lowenthal

February 23, 2006

An act to amend Section 385.5 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles, *and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1559, as amended, Lowenthal. Vehicles: low-speed vehicles.

Existing law defines “ low-speed vehicle” for purposes of the Vehicle Code as a motor vehicle other than a motor truck, having four wheels on the ground and an unladed weight of 1,800 pounds or less, that is capable of propelling itself at a minimum speed of 20 miles per hour and a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour, on a paved level surface. Existing law imposes certain restrictions on the use of low-speed vehicles on public streets and highways, and generally requires the operator of a low-speed vehicle to have a driver's license.

This bill would change the definition of a “ low-speed vehicle” to a motor vehicle that has 4 wheels, can attain a speed, in one mile, of more than 20 miles per hour and not more than 25 miles per hour, on a paved level surface, and has a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 3,000 pounds.

The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: ~~majority~~^{2/3}. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 385.5 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

385.5. (a) A “low-speed vehicle” is a motor vehicle that meets all of the following requirements:

(1) Has four wheels.

(2) Can attain a speed, in one mile, of more than 20 miles per hour and not more than 25 miles per hour, on a paved level surface.

(3) Has a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 3,000 pounds.

(b) (1) For the purposes of this section, a “low-speed vehicle” is not a golf cart, except when operated pursuant to Section 21115 or 21115.1.

(2) A “low-speed vehicle” is also known as a “neighborhood electric vehicle.”

SEC. 2. *This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*

In order to conform the definition of “low-speed vehicle” to the federal definition at the earliest possible time, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.